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*The Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano*, for October, contains a paper by O. Beccari, describing a new genus of the family Olacineæ; and the editor, T. Caruel, proposes a new classification of plants, the reasons for which are to be given in an unpublished work on vegetable morphology. The transactions of the Royal Swedish Academy for 1874 and 1875 (just received in this country), contains papers by Heer, on the miocene flora of Greenland; by Berggren, on the mosses and Hepaticæ of Spitzbergen, and also on the mosses of Disco Island, Greenland.

### ZOÖLOGY.

NOTE ON THE GARTER SNAKE.—While making some geological examinations on the bank of Lone Tree Creek in Colorado last summer, I started a common snake (*Eutania*, sp.) upon the bank. It immediately took to the water, which was then about eighteen inches deep and had but little current, rested upon the surface and looked at me. I threw a stone which struck near it, when it immediately stretched itself upon the surface, gulped down into its lung a quantity of air, and immediately dived to the bottom and remained there. The mass of air it swallowed caused a distinct globular swelling of the body, which I saw pass along to the region occupied by the posterior end of the lung, where it remained, as I could distinctly see through the clear water, after it had reached the bottom. I then threw a broad, flat stone so that it fell upon the snake and held it fast, whereupon two or three large bubbles of air rose to the surface. I then lifted the stone from it with a stick, allowing it to escape, and as it did so I saw that the air-swelling had disappeared.

I infer that this is probably a habit with the snakes under such circumstances, but I was not aware of it before. In this case the air seems to have been intentionally passed back to the posterior, simple sac-like portion of the lung, where respiratory capillaries are few, to be passed forward to the more cellular anterior portion when the respiratory needs might require it.

The cellular character of the anterior portion of the lung would seem to have offered some impediment to the rapid swallowing of so much air, but I am sure it was so done in this case.—C. A. WHITE, M. D.

NESTING OF THE ROBIN ON THE GROUND.—An instance of this deviation from the usual conditions of nest-building came to my knowledge in May, 1875, near Vineland, New Jersey, where I found a nest of *Turdus migratorius* on the ground. It contained four eggs, and was not peculiar in structure. The nest was identified, as one of the old birds flew from it on my approach. I also saw a stump about a foot and a half high, on which I was informed that a pair of robins had nested.—H. W. TURNER, Ithaca, New York.

WILD GEESE NESTING IN TREES.—While in Greeley, Colorado, last summer, Mr. Louis Wyatt told me that he had seen wild geese nesting in large cottonwood trees on Snake River, a branch of the Yampah or Bear River, west of the Rocky Mountain range, in Colorado, at a point bearing a little north of west of Greeley, Colorado. This is the only instance published, I believe, of this habit as observed in Colorado. Dr. Coues, in his "Birds of the Northwest," states that it "nests in various parts of the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone regions *in trees*."—*A. S. Packard, Jr.*

RATE OF GROWTH OF THE BARNACLE.—Upon taking up, Nov. 17, a post to which my boat was moored, and which was put down at low-water mark April 5th, 1877, in Salem harbor, I found numerous barnacles (*Balanus balanoides*) living and of nearly full size, being four-tenths of an inch in diameter and about two-tenths high. With them were small *Fucus vesiculosus*, the largest one of which was about three inches in length. The post was a new one and had not been used the year previous. A number of similar observations will be found in Darwin's work on barnacles.—*A. S. Packard, Jr.*

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE ARCHÆOLOGY OF THE PACIFIC COAST.—The Rev. Stephen Bowers has just completed an archæological exploration along the Pacific Slope for Major J. W. Powell, who is in charge of the Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region. During the six months of his labors, Mr. Bowers examined one hundred and fifty miles of the southern coast of California, and the inland country drained by the three streams, Santa Iñez River, Sisquoc River, and Cuyama River. He also visited San Miguel and Santa Cruz Islands, having previously explored Santa Rosa Island for the Smithsonian Institution. The results of his last and most important expedition are between five and six tons of antiquities.

The collections obtained consist of the following objects: Ollas of crystalized talc; *tortilla* or millstones of the same material; arrow-smoothers of the same material; mortars and pestles of sandstone (some of the latter finely wrought and over two feet in length); cups of serpentine; pipes of indurated talc and other material; charms or amulets of talc, etc.; perforated discs of serpentine, sandstone, etc.; spear-points and arrow-heads; knives of chert; vast quantities of shell ornaments, and beads, in great variety; stone tubes, etc.

The perforated discs or "stone rings or doughnuts" Mr. Paul Schumacher believed to have been employed to give weight to the wooden spades with which the ancient pits or graves were dug. This attempt to designate their use is as clever as his inference is improbable. The rings are usually so light in weight as to be of no value in this respect, and in order to be serviceable as weights they would be too bulky for use. They weigh from a few ounces